

Oxford Democrat.

No. 2, Vol. 6, New Series.

Paris, Maine, Tuesday, May 19, 1846.

Old Series, No. 11, Vol. 15.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY, BY

G. W. SKILLIN,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS:—One Dollar and Fifty Cents in advance. Advertisements inserted on reasonable terms;—the Proprietor not being accountable for any error beyond the amount charged for the advertisement. A reasonable deduction will be made for cash in advance.

Book and Job Printing

EXECUTED WITH neatness and dispatch.

POETRY.

From the Democratic Review.

SPURN NOT THE GUILTY.

BY CAROLINE M. SAWYER.

Scorn not the man whose spirit feels
The curse of guilt upon it rest;
Upon whose brain the hideous seals
Of crime and infamy are prest!
Spurn not the lost one—not in speech
More cold and withering than despair,
Of stern, relentless vengeance preach—
For he thy lessons will not bear!

'Twill rouse a demon in his heart
Which thou too late wouldst strive to chain,
And bid a thousand furies start
To life, which ne'er may sleep again.
No! better from her forest lair,
The furnished lioness to goad,
Than, in his guilt, remorse, despair,
With wretched threats the sinner load!

But if a soul thou wouldst redeem,
And lead a lost one back to God—
Wouldst thou a guardian angel send
To one who long in guilt hath trod?
Go kindly to him—take his hand,
With gentle words, within thine own,
And by his side, a brother stand,
Till thou the demon sin, de throne.

He is a man, and he will yield,
Like snows beneath the torrid ray,
And his strong heart, though fiercely steel'd
Before the breath of love give way;
He had a mother once, and felt
A mother's kiss upon his cheek,
And at her knee at evening knelt,
The prayer of innocence to seek!

A mother—say! and who shall say,
Thou' sunk, debased, he now may be,
That spirit may not wake to-day,
Which filled him at that mother's knee?
No guilt so utter o'er became
But find it we some good might find,
And virtue through the deepest shame,
Still feebly lights the darkest mind.

Scorn not the guilty, then, but plead
With him in kind, gentle mood,
And bid the lost one thou may'st lead
To God, humanity and good!
Thou art thyself but man, and thou
Art weak, perchance, to fall as he;
Then mercy to the fallen show,
That mercy may be shown to thee!

ORIGINAL TALES.

WRITTEN FOR THE DEMOCRAT.

The Farmer's Daughter.

What though the world at her may scoff,
And envy frown severe;
She heeds it not—what careth she,
For the malicious sneer?
There is a hidden world within,
Her own internal worth,
And what cares she, the coldly pass
The titled sons of earth?

'Miss Beaumont, can you tell me, who that beautiful girl is, now in conversation with Mrs. Green?' asked Roland Lesley, as he was one evening seated in the drawing-room of Mrs. R., where a large company had assembled.

'Beautiful!' repeated the lady addressed, with a contemptuous toss of her head, 'pray, Mr. Lesley, do you call Emily Stanhope beautiful?'

'Assuredly, I do,' returned Lesley. 'But who is Emily Stanhope, if I may be allowed to ask?'

'Really, you seem to take an unusual interest in the girl,' rejoined Miss Beaumont, sarcastically. 'I presume it will be increased, when I inform you she is the daughter of a poor farmer, who earns his living by the plough and spade.'

'My curiosity, Miss Beaumont, is not diminished, I acknowledge, by your information,' said the gentleman, a little hurt by her pointed remark. 'Miss Stanhope is certainly not to be blamed for her parentage.'

'Oh, no! but I have no patience with such creatures, who force themselves into society, only to pester folks by their vulgar country manners.'

'From the casual glance I have had of Miss Stanhope, I should judge she was far more refined than many who have been in a city,' rejoined Lesley, quietly. 'Her deportment is exceedingly modest, and her manner divested of everything like forwardness or impertinence.'

'Miss Beaumont bit her lip, and a haughty frown gathered upon her brow. She saw, however, that the young man did, by no means, relish her satire, and the friendship of the rich and admired Roland Lesley was an acquisition too valuable, by far, to be cast off at pleasure.'

'Indeed, Mr. Lesley,' said she, with a smile, and as much sweetness as her inward vexation would allow her to assume, 'your opinion of the young lady differs widely from my own. You assuredly cannot think the demureness of her country look, as evidence of refinement.'

'Pardon me, Miss Beaumont, if I say, I discover nothing like demureness, either in her look or manners. On the contrary, all is simplicity and frankness, mingled with an unaffected modesty, which is to me, the convincing proof of a really refined and uncorrupted mind. Miss Stanhope has not been presented to you, I infer!'

'No, indeed, Mr. Lesley,' haughtily replied the lady, vexed that her sophistry had not its desired effect.

'Perhaps, should you become acquainted with her, the injurious ideas you entertain respecting her character, may be done away. We ought not to condemn, till we are satisfied our accusations are just.'

'I must beg to be excused from permitting an introduction,' answered Miss Beaumont, dippantly. 'If would be highly disagreeable to myself, and till satisfied my impressions are unjust, I cannot consent to such a measure. Excuse me, Mr. Lesley, I have all due deference to your opinion—but I wonder greatly at Mrs. Green's consenting to an introduction, and think it highly deleterious to the dignity of her station. Indeed, she often violates the established etiquette of gentility and good taste by associating with persons infinitely beneath her.'

'True gentility is kindness and good feeling towards all,' replied Lesley, placing a marked emphasis on his words. 'I must, however, add, he, rising and bowing formally, 'incur the imputation of a disregard to its rules, for I am determined on an introduction to Miss Stanhope.'

Miss Beaumont's brow grew dark, till it nearly resembled a midnight cloud, and she looked towards the object of their discussion, as though she would have annihilated her, had it been in her power. Roland passed on, without noticing it, to the lady of the mansion, and in a whisper, communicated his request. The lady rose, and he was immediately presented to Miss Stanhope.

The person of Emily was tall and fully developed, displaying an admirable symmetry of proportion, blended with a fulness of outlines, which, without marring its dignity in the least, conveyed the impression of perfect health, united with vigor and vivacity of motion. A connoisseur on female beauty would probably have censured the irregularity of her features, for her loveliness consisted more in the expression and vivid coloring of her countenance, than in mere symmetry.

Her complexion was clear, transparent and beautifully tinted, the rose blossoming on her cheek, not in the faint and delicate tints, by which that of the languid beauty is characterized, but in its purest, richest and most lively colorings. Her forehead was highly intellectual, and her eyes cerulean color, large, lustrous and expressive of a mind in which were combined deep and fervent susceptibilities, with a degree of resolution, unusual to the generality of the sex. The principal charm of her countenance was its bright and animated expression—a frank, open, cheerful look, depicted on every feature, as well as in the intelligent and sparkling eye.

She received Lesley's compliments with grace and self-possession, though the carmine tint of modesty overspread her face, as she caught his glance of admiration. Roland sat down beside her, and making some commonplace observations, endeavored to commence a conversation with her. In this attempt he was successful, and he was surprised at the elegant simplicity of her remarks, and the ease and fluency with which she spoke. There was a slight touch of quaintness in her manner at times; but if this was a defect, it was more than compensated by her ready ingenueness, and entire absence of everything like flattery or affectation.

This movement on the part of Lesley occasioned not a little surprise among the aristocratic bells of the village who were then assembled, and numerous were the frowns and satirical speeches directed to the fair object of his attention. Roland saw this, and though he could scarcely forbear smiling when he reflected on the secret cause of their animadversions, he was vexed at their unpardonable insolence. Emily also noticed it, and though keenly susceptible to every species of impertinence, she was too conscious of the intrinsic superiority of her own mind to allow her composure to be disturbed. From the first moment of her entrance, she had observed unequivocal demonstrations of contempt, and she had been mortified by the peremptory refusal of several to an introduction. She had also overheard many remarks respecting her parentage, and sundry sneering expressions, touching her supposed ignorance and vulgarity. She was surprised and gratified with the attentions of Lesley, and thought him, by far the handsomest person in the room.

While they were conversing together, on different subjects, Miss Beaumont hanging on the arm of a friend chanced to pass by. She paused and stared contemptuously in the face of Emily. The color deepened on the young girl's cheek, but she met the gaze of Miss Beaumont with a calm, steady look which seemed to rebuke her impertinent scrutiny. Abashed, by her tranquil manner, Miss Beaumont turned away, and hurried on.

'That is Miss Beaumont, the belle of our village,' returned a lady who sat a short distance from Emily, and who, by the way, was known throughout the whole village for her loquacity and desire of giving information. 'Don't you think she is beautiful?'

'Her personal beauty, madame, is certainly very striking,' rejoined Emily with coolness. 'And but a slender disguise to the most disgusting deformities of mind,' thought Roland. He had closely observed her manner towards Emily, and he was increased as well as mortified at her impertinence. He had known, from his first acquaintance with her, that her notions were aristocratic in the extreme; but he had never imagined her capable of such unblushing impudence, and the discovery was painful and mortifying, beyond expression.

'She is excessively proud,' resumed the loquacious lady, and I assure you, she seldom daunts to notice any one whom she imagines inferior to herself. I like to see one have a proper

regard for their own standing in society, but I protest, such aristocracy is perfectly ridiculous. 'I have heard it remarked,' observed Emily, 'that the people of this village were in general very aristocratic in their notions.'

'I regret to say the remark is a veritable one,' said Lesley. 'Otherwise liberal in their views, this is the prevailing sin among the community. I cannot imagine from whence these mistaken principles originally proceeded; but there are but few who have not imbibed them to a great extent.'

'Ah, Mr. Lesley,' exclaimed the lady, 'I perceive you still retain your old notions. 'It is my pride to retain them, Mrs. Brooks. When I have so far forgotten what is due to the principles of right as to suppose the poor but honest laboring man is not entitled to as much respect, as him whom fortune has elevated to a sphere of idleness, then indeed, shall I consider myself unworthy the friendship of those, by whom such principles are now advocated.'

'I perfectly agree with you, Mr. Lesley,' rejoined the lady. 'But don't you think there is a difference in regard to respectability, in the different occupations of the laboring men?'

'Assuredly, I do. The occupation of a mechanic, I should judge a little more respectable than that of a hang-man.'

Mrs. Brooks was somewhat disconcerted with this unexpected rejoinder; but having commenced the subject with a purpose—for she was a woman who never acted without a motive,—she was unwilling to drop it so suddenly.

'Well, for instance, do you not think the occupation of a merchant more honorable than a farmer's?'

Roland immediately perceived her drift. He was well acquainted with her character, and knew that with her penchant for talkativeness, she united the less pardonable propensities for wounding the feelings of others, without respect for their age or station. She had condemned the aristocratic notions of Miss Beaumont from the idea of its being unpleasant to Lesley; but finding he so readily assimilated to her opinions, she determined to make an attack on the feelings of Emily, by indirectly alluding to her parentage, which, in the presence of the gentlemen, supposed would occasion her extreme mortification. Roland saw her intention, and he stole a furtive look at Emily, to whom all eyes were directed by the inquiry of Mrs. Brooks. The color had deepened on the cheek of the young girl, but not a muscle of her face moved, and her manner was perfectly free from embarrassment.

'I think, madam,' said he, sternly, 'I should prefer the occupation of the latter, from the circumstance that the former has often been disgraced by the most consummate baseness, and utter violation of every principle of honesty. Miss Stanhope, I presume, does not regret that her father chose such a vocation in life. On the contrary, she has reason—abundant reason, to rejoice at the circumstance, for many of our most eminent men were originally tillers of the soil.'

'Totally disconcerted with this severe retort, Mrs. Brooks, with all her volubility, had no power to frame a reply. She endeavored, however, to conceal her chagrin by commencing a conversation with a lady who sat opposite to herself. Emily involuntarily glanced towards Lesley, and admiration and gratitude beamed forth from her speaking eyes. She longed to declare her thanks for his generosity in her behalf; but as no opportunity was afforded her, she could only express them by the silent, but effective language of the eye.

Miss Beaumont had been a close observer of the previous scene, and it is not necessary to state how many were the withering glances directed to the unconscious Emily, or how often the pouting lip was unmercifully bitten in her attempts to suppress her vexation. Somehow, her good humor and conviviality, of which, by the way, she had never possessed a remarkable share, seemed to have forsaken her, and it was apparently a difficult task for her to speak with any degree of composure. At length, Lesley arose from his seat, and politely apologizing to Emily, left her side, not, however, without first securing for her, the companionship of a lady whose conversation he knew would be both agreeable and edifying. A sudden ray of sunshine over a dark cloud might well have typified the change in Miss Beaumont's countenance, as she marked this action. But the salutary ray was of short duration, for instead of approaching her, as she had expected, he passed on to the other side of the apartment, and deliberately seated himself among a group of ladies and gentlemen, without even casting a look towards her. Poor Miss Beaumont! her dreams that night were strangely frightful, and her waking visions were scarcely less agreeable.

The father of Lesley was the wealthiest gentleman in the community, and as Roland was his only son and would in consequence, be the sole inheritor of his fortune on his decease, it was no remarkable circumstance that the young man should be a particular favorite of the belles. And, indeed, if this glittering appendage had been wanting, it is doubtful whether he would have exercised a potent sway over their hearts, for no one would gainsay that he was every way calculated to elicit admiration. He was a tall, finely-proportioned fellow, uniting both grace and dignity in his deportment, with a winning exterior, and features, that, for their extreme regularity and evidences of expression, might not have disgraced an Adonis. Possessing every advantage for education, he had not neglected to improve a mind, which was, indeed, a counterpart to the form that enshrined it. Few could boast of being his equal in any branch of

knowledge, whether scientific or practical, and still less, his superior. Though, from the wealth of his father, he was abundantly able to support a life of idleness, the native energy and rectitude of his character would not allow him thus to support a life of idleness, the native energy and rectitude of his character would not allow him thus to squander the best moments of his existence. He had chosen the profession of law, and at the commencement of our story, had nearly completed the requisite studies.

The village in which he resided was noted for the aristocratic principles, prevalent among its inhabitants. Notwithstanding his father was among the foremost who advocated these principles, Roland had utterly repudiated them, as absurd, if not ridiculous, in the extreme. He knew that true nobility was not confined to rank—on the contrary, that it was oftener found in the more humble and retired walks of life.

Among those who had been most favored with his attentions was Miss Adela Beaumont, the reigning belle of the village. It may be safely inferred that this distinction did not lessen the lady's self-importance, of which she had always possessed a considerable share. Miss Beaumont was really beautiful; but her person was destitute of the ineffable charms of modesty and goodness which imperceptibly win the heart, even though their possessor lacks the more seductive graces of womanly elegance and comeliness. Pride was the ruling motive of her heart, and there was no pleasure in life, valuable in her eyes, unless it administered to this propensity. She had received a finished education, and excelled in the various accomplishments which are so essential to those who possess an elevated standing in society. Lesley admired her for her extreme beauty and her accomplishments, and even ascribed to her, graces of mind, of which she was, in truth, utterly destitute. In his presence, she effected a deep sensibility, and a profound disgust for the petty vices and degeneracies of human nature, and so well did she carry out her farce, that Roland imagined her, with the exception of her aristocratic principles, a most faultless being.

Rumor already had it that, ere a year should pass away, the elegant mansion of Mr. Lesley would receive a new mistress in the person of Miss Beaumont. This, however, was not true, but how soon such a supposition might prove correct, would have been difficult to tell, had not an incident occurred which materially changed the tenor of Lesley's feelings. The incident to which we allude was none other than the arrival of Emily Stanhope. She was the daughter of a respectable farmer, living about five miles from the village, who, though not wealthy, possessed sufficient for the comforts and conveniences of life. Having a friend in the village, she had come thither, with the intention of spending a few weeks. The conduct of Miss Beaumont towards her, on the evening of which we have already spoken, disclosed her true character to Lesley, and he was as much surprised as mortified at the discovery. After that, he avoided her society as much as possible, and his attentions to her were only such as politeness absolutely demanded. Miss Beaumont's indomitable pride prevented her from appearing to regret the change in his manner; but her usual haughtiness and petulance plainly discovered to the sagacious observer, that she keenly felt his neglect.

During Emily's stay in the village, Lesley frequently visited her, and soon learned to appreciate the intrinsic worth of her character. It is true she did not possess all those accomplishments which so many deem indispensable to a lady; but she had what was far more, an uncorrupted mind and a warm, frank and benevolent heart. She could not jabber French, nor play on the harp or piano, though she could sing very sweetly; but she had read extensively, and was well versed in the various departments of practical knowledge. She made no pretensions to artificial elegance, either in her manner or attire; but she had that innate delicacy of feeling, and that elevation of soul above the sensualism of the world, which constitute true refinement. Lesley esteemed her for the rectitude and purity of her principles, and soon felt a warm interest in her welfare. His friendship was gratefully reciprocated, and it was not long ere a mutual confidence subsisted between them. The idea of love did not enter the mind of Emily; but we will not vouch that the gentleman had never entertained such a thought.

The time appointed for Emily's departure speedily arrived, and though Lesley endeavored to dissuade her from returning so soon, she did not change her purpose. He requested permission to visit her, which was unhesitatingly given, and saw her depart with feelings of regret he had never experienced before. Poor Miss Beaumont! she fancied after Emily's departure he would return to herself; but her expectations were woefully disappointed. He preserved his stoicism, and resisted all her allurements to recall him to her side, with a coolness that certainly did not have quite so refrigerating an effect on the feelings of the lady. The attentions of Lesley to Miss Stanhope had excited universal surprise, and afforded an inexhaustible theme for discussion among the good dames of the village. Miss Beaumont affected to disbelieve these rumors, and was very assiduous in her endeavors to correct them. But gossip will have its own way, and if you attempt to check it, like the swine species, it will invariably turn upon yourself.

Roland availed himself of Emily's permission, and his expectations of pleasure by so doing were not disappointed. Mr. Stanhope, Emily's father, was a hale, jovial and benevolent hearted old man, perfectly content with his lot, and regarded the luxuries of wealth with an indifference

which, to a mercenary mind, would have appeared unaccountable. He received Roland with the greatest cordiality, and conversed with him, respecting the aspect of the season and the prospects for different crops, with as much volubility as though he had known him from childhood. Emily was his idol and he was never weary of dwelling on her beauty, her activity, and kindness to himself. This was a subject of much interest to Roland, and it was in consequence a frequent theme of conversation. It must not, however, be inferred from this, that he took less pleasure in the society of Emily. He admired to watch her quietly assisting her mother in her daily round of domestic duties; and never seeming to weary in administering to the comfort of others. In short, she was a sort of 'presiding divinity' over her father's household, dispensing happiness to all, and dissipating by her smiles and unalterable good humor, whatever perplexity or sorrow intruded itself upon its peaceful precincts. Lesley, however, very carefully concealed his sentiments, for he was not quite so sure they were reciprocated, as he could wish; and he fancied it better to remain in suspense, if suspense it could be called, than to know the worst, and be thus banished from her society.

While Lesley was thus enjoying himself, there was a storm gathering over his head, of which he little dreamed. About the time of which we speak, a sudden and insatiable thirst for speculation prevailed among the people of the village. Many plunged recklessly into the dangerous tide without even reflecting on the probable results of their temerity. A great number were ruined, in consequence, and among these was Mr. Lesley, the father of Roland. The latter had frequently warned him against pursuing so dangerous a business; but blinded by a love of gain and the prospect of vast riches, he lent no heed to his entreaties. Too late did he awaken from his golden dreams to find himself stripped of his possessions, and he and his son scarcely less than beggars. To add to his misfortunes, his former intimate friends—if such they could be called—deserted him at once, and there was not one in the large circle of his acquaintances who would even deign to offer him assistance in his distress. This, perhaps, was not to be wondered at, for in prosperity, unlike his son, he was proud, selfish and unfeeling; and his misfortunes, instead of exciting compassion, were only pronounced a just punishment for his former uncharitableness.

Though this blow was severe to Roland, he had too much energy and strength of mind to allow himself to be overwhelmed by it. Fortunately, he had completed the study of law, and could now hope to earn a livelihood by his profession. As his native village afforded few advantages to a young, inexperienced hand like himself, he resolved to quit it at once, and locate himself in some place where he would be more likely to obtain practice. Besides, he was unwilling to remain longer where he met only insult and impertinence, without one word of sympathy for the misfortunes into which his father's inconsiderate folly had precipitated him. Miss Beaumont, of course, no longer endeavored to win back his favor, and Lesley could not forbear smiling as he marked the sudden change perceptible in her manners.

He could not think of departing, without a visit to Emily, who, he felt confident, would not regard him less kindly for the mere loss of the paltry baubles of wealth. He renounced all ideas of suing for her hand, for he could not hope, even were she prepossessed in his favor, that she would consent to wed him in his present reduced circumstances. It was not without many struggles that he arrived at this determination; but he felt that prudence, though a stern dictator, should never be sacrificed to gratify pleasure.

It was near the close of a warm day in summer, when Lesley turned his horse down the shaded avenue that led to the residence of Farmer Stanhope. He dismounted at the end of it, and was about opening the front door, when he observed Emily, leaning in a pensive attitude against the garden-gate. Her back was towards him, and it was evident, from her appearance, she was unaware of his arrival. Lesley approached her hastily and pronounced her name. She turned around with involuntary quickness, and a cordial smile diffused itself over her face, as her eye fell on him. Roland thought she had never appeared more beautiful before, and, perhaps, he was not mistaken, for she certainly did look very lovely in her simple dress, with dark, auburn hair floating in natural curls over her neck, and round her glowing cheeks.

'Mr. Lesley!' exclaimed she. 'This is truly an unexpected pleasure!'

'Ah, Emily, you will not declare thus, when you know the occasion of my sudden appearance.' Emily noticed the unusual dejection of his manner, and having previously heard of the reverses he had met with, instantly conjectured the purport of his visit.

'I am not ignorant of your misfortune, Mr. Lesley. I sincerely regret it; but the circumstance has not diminished in the least, the friendship I entertain for you.'

'I did not suppose, Emily, it would occasion any alteration in your sentiments, and I thank you for the assurance. Your friendship is of inestimable value to me. All those who once profess an interest in my welfare have forsaken me with prosperity, and you may imagine how grateful I feel for this evidence of your unabated regard.'

'Indeed!' exclaimed Emily with surprise, for unversed as she was in the ways of the world, she did not know to what lengths of business the human heart was capable of going. 'But I pre-

(Concluded on last page.)

Governor's Message.

Gentlemen of the Senate
and House of Representatives:

Since the adjournment of the last Legislature, a period has elapsed considerably longer than that which has usually intervened between consecutive sessions, and in conformity to the constitution of the State, as it has been amended by the people, we have assembled for the first time, upon the day designated by the recent provision.

It brings you together at a season more conducive to personal comfort, and better adapted, as I trust it will be found, to an expeditious and economical transaction of the public business.

During the recess of the Legislature, but little has occurred to interrupt the prosecution of the various pursuits, upon which the enterprise and activity of our citizens lead them to engage.

The orderly habits which prevail among the people, have protected us from the disturbances which have occasionally occurred in some of our sister States; and the invigorating influence of a healthy climate, has exempted us from those enfeebling diseases, which have visited other sections of the country.

In addition to the vigorous prosecution of their ordinary avocations, the enterprise of our citizens is also leading them to other branches of profitable labor; under the liberal policy adopted by the Legislature, numerous acts of incorporation for manufacturing purposes, have been granted, and there is reason to believe, that with the increase of our population, and the accumulation of unemployed capital, our national advancement for this species of productive industry will be gradually developed.

Nor have the benefits which result from the opening of new avenues of intercommunication between distant and important points, been overlooked or neglected. Various projects to cheapen transportation, and facilitate the public travel, have been suggested and examined, one of which, as the result of a private enterprise and capital, deserves to be ranked among the most magnificent and useful conceptions of the time.

Designed to connect by a continuous line of railroad, the principal depot upon the St. Lawrence, with so convenient and excellent a seaport as Portland, the facilities this work would afford to both the internal and external commerce of the State, can scarcely be overrated; and though the well settled policy of the State government precludes it from any active co-operation in its construction, its successful prosecution will be regarded with the highest satisfaction in every section of the State.

In the retrospect of a period, distinguished by so many evidences of public prosperity, it would be strange if there should be found no admixture of disappointment.

The partial failure of an important crop, has been seriously and extensively felt; and the extraordinary floods which have prevailed during the present spring, have been productive of great inconvenience and loss for the one, however, a considerable indemnity was found, in the great abundance of more valuable productions; and it is hoped, that the perseverance and energy so strikingly characteristic of the community most deeply affected, will speedily overcome the disasters occasioned by the other.

In assembling, to enter upon the duties assigned us by the people, it is gratifying, that with the exceptions I have mentioned, we are enabled to indulge in mutual congratulations upon the continued growth and prosperity with which we have been blessed. With abundant cause to be satisfied with the past, we may also hope, that with the blessing of Him, who has so signally favored us hitherto, our progress, in all that essentially conduces to the welfare of a State, will be sufficiently rapid in the future.

The annual Reports of the Treasurer and Land Agent, the latter of which is herewith communicated, will advise you of the condition of the two most important branches of the public service.

Under the care of the able and vigilant officers who have charge of those departments, the financial concerns of the State exhibit the most satisfactory aspect.

The balance in the Treasury at the date of the last Report of the Treasurer, amounted to the sum of \$82,422.

There has been received into the Treasury from all sources, and for all purposes, during the financial year ending upon the 30th of April last, the sum of \$610,772.

Of this sum there was received from the avails of the State Tax for 1844 and 1845, the sum \$245,439; from the Land Agent \$155,048, and for claims against the General Government, adjusted and paid during the year, the sum of \$162,335.

There has been paid from the Treasury, during the same period, the sum of \$314,210; of which \$451,000 was for payment of principal and interest of the public debt, the greater part of which became due during the year. The balance in the Treasury is now \$270,000; and it is estimated, that the receipts for the ensuing political year, would fully justify the immediate application of the whole of this sum, in the payment of the principal of our State debt; and it is also estimated, that with the small amount now required to defray the ordinary expenses of the State, the receipts which may be expected from the Land Office, together with other sources of income, and the tax for 1846, will increase the sum which may be appropriated to the same purpose during the year.

The whole amount of the funded debt of the State is now \$1,274,255; if the holders of its stock certificates would consent to receive, in anticipation of their maturity, the money now on hand, it would be reduced to the sum of \$945,000.

Three years ago our debt amounted to \$1,700,000; the means are now in the Treasury and needed for no other purpose, to reduce it to little more than half that sum.

It is but seldom that large indebted governments or individuals, are seriously recommended by surplus funds. Such, however, has been our condition for two years past, and which probably be our condition for some time to come. With the means of paying nearly a third of our debt, it is impossible to find, among the creditors of the State, those who will receive, at any reasonable advance, the amount of principal that will be due to them; certificates of stock are but rarely offered in any of the markets, and it has been with considerable difficulty, that the Treasurer has been able to obtain the amount redeemed during the past year; and there seems but little probability, especially where it is known that the State itself is constantly in the market as a purchaser of its own scrip, that it will be offered for sale, upon terms which will justify its purchase. In the year 1846, there will be the sum of \$163,000; with that exception there will be little which can be paid until the year 1851, and in the meantime, the large sum I have named, with the accumulation of the coming year, must remain wholly unproductive in the Treasury, or be loaned to banks at such low rate of interest as they are disposed to allow.

In this unexpected condition of our finances, what course ought the State government to adopt? It is expedient as it is to extinguish as soon as possible, and as speedily as possible, the debt of the State, and to make a further call upon the resources of the people, without a better prospect of effecting that object, than now exists.

Under these circumstances, it would seem to me, that unless you should deem it practicable and expedient, to repeal or modify the Act of the last session, by which the sum of \$200,000, was required to be raised for the use of the Treasury, the State Tax for the ensuing year, might be either wholly dispensed with, or so much reduced in amount, as to prevent a further accumulation of unnecessary funds.

It is somewhat unfortunate, that by the postponement of your annual session to late a period, it became necessary to anticipate legislation, in regard to the State Tax, for so long a time; and I apprehend it will be found inconvenient in future. It is now more than a year, since the Tax Act for the current year was passed; and it was not then foreseen, either that so large a sum would be received into the Treasury from other sources, or that it would be difficult for the Treasurer, under the authority with which he was clothed, to apply its redundant means to the payment of the State debt.

The purchases of stock which have been made during the year, have been of that class first becoming due.

With the exception of the sum I have named, as payable in 1848, it is not probable, that without some extraordinary and long continued pressure upon the money market, the stock payable on and after 1851, could be purchased under a premium of eight or ten per cent; and sales have been made within the year, at prices considerably above that rate.

It will be perceived, that there has been received during the year, for the claims of the State against the General Government, the sum of \$162,335. Of these claims, \$56,751, were for claims arising under the Treaty of Washington, comprehending a variety of items, not allowable under the first appropriations; the sum of \$55,928 for military expenditures which were adjusted at the War Department; and \$10,716, being the distributive share of the land money belonging to this State, under the Treaty claims, due the State, have been allowed and paid in full of the military claims, a balance is still unpaid.

Full and particular accounts of the final adjudication upon these claims at the several departments to which they were referred, with a statement of the specified differences in the settlement of our military accounts, have been furnished me.

These papers, with a particular statement of the items allowed, as also a detailed statement of the "Disputed Territory Fund," which I have also received, will be shortly laid before you.

Of the operations in the Land Office, a detailed statement will be found in the report of the Agent. That they have been uncommonly active and successful, will sufficiently appear by the large sums they have contributed to the resources of the Treasury, the receipts for the year having exceeded the estimate of the Agent, nearly \$100,000.

It is not now believed, that any now legislation in regard to public lands is now called for; in a faithful administration of the laws already provided, the State is receiving a constantly increasing revenue, and it may reasonably be hoped, that with an adherence to the same prudent policy, the time is not far distant, when it will afford an income sufficiently large to defray the expenses of our State government.

The appropriations which have been made for the construction or repair of roads, in the vicinity of the State lands, have increased the facilities of travel and transportation, and rendered to those, whose occupation and labor have been so profitable to the State, as well as to the public generally, a very essential service. The expenditure of the sums which have heretofore been granted for those purposes, has been generally contingent upon the expenditure of like sums by the State of Massachusetts, whose pecuniary interest is greatly promoted by the opening of these important avenues of communication. It is to be regretted, that the expenditure of these grants has been frequently limited for want of the required co-operation.

Several of these roads are in want of immediate repair, and considerable sums will be needed to render them now open tolerably passable. I trust an appropriation sufficiently large to make the necessary improvements will be made, and that proper steps to induce the co-operation of Massachusetts will also be adopted.

The report of the Bank Commissioners, which was made in December last, has been printed, and copies will be herewith laid before you.

The highly important functions which are performed by our Banking Institutions, in all that pertains to the business affairs of the community, will always render an accurate knowledge of their condition, and management, a matter of peculiar interest, both to the Legislature and the people.

Interested with almost unlimited control over our local currency, and extending their agency into every department of trade, it is the imperative duty of the State government, not only to see that they are subjected to the surveillance and wholesome regulation of the State, but to see that a supervision, as will ensure a strict compliance with the legal enactments by which they should be governed.

The attention of former Legislatures has been annually directed to the accomplishment of their objects, and such guards and restrictions have been imposed, as without impairing their usefulness or efficiency, have been considered sufficient to protect the community from the irregularities and abuses, to which experience has shown they are liable.

The charters of all the Banks in the State will expire by limitation in October of next year, and although the subject will not necessarily require your action at the present session, it may be proper in the meantime, to inquire, how far the operation of existing laws may have shown the necessity of further legislation, and to receive the views of the Commissioners, several suggestions are offered by the Commissioners, which from the experience and observation upon which they are founded, are entitled to respectful consideration. They do not, however, contemplate any considerable innovation upon the present system; many with the exception of a narrower limit, in the extent of their loans, do they recommend that any material restrictions should be added to those now provided.

And they express their conviction, that the several acts for regulating banks and banking now in force, though not entirely faultless, are as perfect as those of any State in the Union.

It will be perceived, that the Commissioners again invoke the attention of the Legislature to the continued infraction by some of the banks of that provision of the law which limits the amount of their circulation; neither this, nor any other habit of violation of the law, should be countenanced or permitted; if the restriction be unwise or impracticable, the law which imposes it should be repealed or amended; if it be salutary and proper, it should be rigidly enforced.

If one institution is allowed to transcend its legal limits, the ground of other of local necessity or of the undoubted ability of the Bank, it is difficult to conceive how another, no more culpable, but in which the violation may be attended with real danger, can be rebuked or punished. The same privilege should be extended to all required scrupulously to conform to the prescribed limit.

The adoption of some provision, better calculated than any now in force, to remedy this continued irregularity, and which shall be also applicable to a similar excess in the amount of loans, and the liability of directors, is strongly recommended by the commissioners, and should receive your careful attention.

It has been frequently urged, that in the annual exhibition of the condition of our Banks, they uniformly appear a much greater disproportion between their paper circulation, and the amount of specie it is intended to represent, than was ever before contemplated by the law, or consistent with a sound and prudent policy; and that while this disproportion is suffered to continue, there will be a greater liability to those sudden expansions and contractions in the currency, which have heretofore produced such injurious effects upon the operations of business, and creates such frequent changes in the value of property.

It is somewhat unfortunate, that by the postponement of your annual session to late a period, it became necessary to anticipate legislation, in regard to the State Tax, for so long a time; and I apprehend it will be found inconvenient in future. It is now more than a year, since the Tax Act for the current year was passed; and it was not then foreseen, either that so large a sum would be received into the Treasury from other sources, or that it would be difficult for the Treasurer, under the authority with which he was clothed, to apply its redundant means to the payment of the State debt.

The purchases of stock which have been made during the year, have been of that class first becoming due.

With the exception of the sum I have named, as payable in 1848, it is not probable, that without some extraordinary and long continued pressure upon the money market, the stock payable on and after 1851, could be purchased under a premium of eight or ten per cent; and sales have been made within the year, at prices considerably above that rate.

It will be perceived, that there has been received during the year, for the claims of the State against the General Government, the sum of \$162,335. Of these claims, \$56,751, were for claims arising under the Treaty of Washington, comprehending a variety of items, not allowable under the first appropriations; the sum of \$55,928 for military expenditures which were adjusted at the War Department; and \$10,716, being the distributive share of the land money belonging to this State, under the Treaty claims, due the State, have been allowed and paid in full of the military claims, a balance is still unpaid.

Full and particular accounts of the final adjudication upon these claims at the several departments to which they were referred, with a statement of the specified differences in the settlement of our military accounts, have been furnished me.

These papers, with a particular statement of the items allowed, as also a detailed statement of the "Disputed Territory Fund," which I have also received, will be shortly laid before you.

Of the operations in the Land Office, a detailed statement will be found in the report of the Agent. That they have been uncommonly active and successful, will sufficiently appear by the large sums they have contributed to the resources of the Treasury, the receipts for the year having exceeded the estimate of the Agent, nearly \$100,000.

It is not now believed, that any now legislation in regard to public lands is now called for; in a faithful administration of the laws already provided, the State is receiving a constantly increasing revenue, and it may reasonably be hoped, that with an adherence to the same prudent policy, the time is not far distant, when it will afford an income sufficiently large to defray the expenses of our State government.

The appropriations which have been made for the construction or repair of roads, in the vicinity of the State lands, have increased the facilities of travel and transportation, and rendered to those, whose occupation and labor have been so profitable to the State, as well as to the public generally, a very essential service. The expenditure of the sums which have heretofore been granted for those purposes, has been generally contingent upon the expenditure of like sums by the State of Massachusetts, whose pecuniary interest is greatly promoted by the opening of these important avenues of communication. It is to be regretted, that the expenditure of these grants has been frequently limited for want of the required co-operation.

Several of these roads are in want of immediate repair, and considerable sums will be needed to render them now open tolerably passable. I trust an appropriation sufficiently large to make the necessary improvements will be made, and that proper steps to induce the co-operation of Massachusetts will also be adopted.

The report of the Bank Commissioners, which was made in December last, has been printed, and copies will be herewith laid before you.

The highly important functions which are performed by our Banking Institutions, in all that pertains to the business affairs of the community, will always render an accurate knowledge of their condition, and management, a matter of peculiar interest, both to the Legislature and the people.

Interested with almost unlimited control over our local currency, and extending their agency into every department of trade, it is the imperative duty of the State government, not only to see that they are subjected to the surveillance and wholesome regulation of the State, but to see that a supervision, as will ensure a strict compliance with the legal enactments by which they should be governed.

The attention of former Legislatures has been annually directed to the accomplishment of their objects, and such guards and restrictions have been imposed, as without impairing their usefulness or efficiency, have been considered sufficient to protect the community from the irregularities and abuses, to which experience has shown they are liable.

The charters of all the Banks in the State will expire by limitation in October of next year, and although the subject will not necessarily require your action at the present session, it may be proper in the meantime, to inquire, how far the operation of existing laws may have shown the necessity of further legislation, and to receive the views of the Commissioners, several suggestions are offered by the Commissioners, which from the experience and observation upon which they are founded, are entitled to respectful consideration. They do not, however, contemplate any considerable innovation upon the present system; many with the exception of a narrower limit, in the extent of their loans, do they recommend that any material restrictions should be added to those now provided.

And they express their conviction, that the several acts for regulating banks and banking now in force, though not entirely faultless, are as perfect as those of any State in the Union.

It will be perceived, that the Commissioners again invoke the attention of the Legislature to the continued infraction by some of the banks of that provision of the law which limits the amount of their circulation; neither this, nor any other habit of violation of the law, should be countenanced or permitted; if the restriction be unwise or impracticable, the law which imposes it should be repealed or amended; if it be salutary and proper, it should be rigidly enforced.

If one institution is allowed to transcend its legal limits, the ground of other of local necessity or of the undoubted ability of the Bank, it is difficult to conceive how another, no more culpable, but in which the violation may be attended with real danger, can be rebuked or punished. The same privilege should be extended to all required scrupulously to conform to the prescribed limit.

The adoption of some provision, better calculated than any now in force, to remedy this continued irregularity, and which shall be also applicable to a similar excess in the amount of loans, and the liability of directors, is strongly recommended by the commissioners, and should receive your careful attention.

It has been frequently urged, that in the annual exhibition of the condition of our Banks, they uniformly appear a much greater disproportion between their paper circulation, and the amount of specie it is intended to represent, than was ever before contemplated by the law, or consistent with a sound and prudent policy; and that while this disproportion is suffered to continue, there will be a greater liability to those sudden expansions and contractions in the currency, which have heretofore produced such injurious effects upon the operations of business, and creates such frequent changes in the value of property.

Various modes to attain this object, with but little inconvenience and expense, could be readily suggested; but none would seem more entirely unobjectionable, than that proposed by the Committee on Education of the Legislature.

By the establishment of a Board of Commissioners, selected for their peculiar qualifications, either by the Legislature or the Executive, the requisite information could be easily and economically obtained; existing defects would be pointed out and exposed, and the improvements which have been introduced by the liberality and spirit of particular communities, commended to the notice and imitation of all.

And availing themselves of the experience of other States, which have preceded us in this laudable undertaking, the operation of those auxiliary establishments, which have been recently engrained upon their respective systems, and their adaptation to the wants and capacities of our own, might form a subject of profitable inquiry.

With the information which would be thus obtained, the Legislature would be enabled to adapt its action to the condition and wants of the existing system; and be better qualified to enter upon the consideration of a more permanent and comprehensive plan of educational improvement.

In the amount of money annually devoted to the support of our common schools, it is not believed, that we should suffer by a comparison with other States; nor that the improvements required, would add, in any formidable degree, to the pecuniary means we are accustomed to allocate to that purpose.

In the belief, that by introducing into our system higher elements of order, economy and uniformity, the expenditure of these means may be productive of a greater amount of good, I respectfully commend this inquiry to your consideration, to the consideration of the Legislature.

Under the resolve passed by the last Legislature, for the promotion of Education in the Madawaska settlement upon the St. John, the agent who had superintended the expenditures of the preceding year, was again appointed to form the duty.

Having afterwards engaged in other business, which rendered it inconvenient to discharge the duties of the office he resigned the appointment, and in October last another Agent was appointed, under whose superintendence a portion of the appropriation has been expended. There remains an unexpended balance of \$700, which, as the Legislature was to convene before it would be needed, it was not deemed advisable to draw from the Treasury.

Unless, therefore, you shall consider it proper to re-appropriate that sum, there will be no means to continue the schools, and the Agency of the Superintendent will be terminated.

The Report of the Agent is herewith communicated. In communicating the report of the Adjutant General, I would bespeak your attention to several suggestions connected with the care of the property of the State, at the several Armories and Gun-houses. Much of this property is rapidly falling to decay, and some small appropriations are required to preserve it from entire ruin.

Having upon former occasions expressed the regret with which I have witnessed the subversion of our militia system, it is not now my intention to reiterate to the Legislature, views, which however weighty they have appeared to me, have found so little favor with those to whom they were addressed.

I am aware also that the increasing aversion which has been manifested by our citizens to the performance of military duty, may have rendered the preservation of an efficient militia, not only difficult, but perhaps impracticable; and that, unless under circumstances of imminent public danger, an attempt to revive it would probably prove unavailing.

It will appear from the report communicated, that under the present law, the militia may be considered as entirely disbanded; the returns which should be made to the Adjutant General, are either wholly omitted, or so imperfect as to be of little value; and in making the annual requisition for our quota of arms from the general government, it is necessary to resort to returns which have been made in former years.

In the annual communications I have made to former Legislatures, I have taken occasion briefly to refer to the several topics of public interest, which were then occupying the public mind.

I have done so with no view, unnecessarily to introduce into their deliberation, the irritations and excitement incident to the discussion of national politics; nor do I now desire to mingle with the local interests, which require the attention of the Legislature, the distracting questions which are properly committed to other hands.

Upon the questions to which I have referred, the public judgment has been deliberately pronounced, and the Legislature of the general government has passed its hands, charged with the consummation of those measures of public policy, which have constituted the leading topics of popular discussion, and upon which, the opinions of the people have been clearly expressed. My own convictions are unchanged, that in a steady and consistent adherence to the line of policy indicated by that expression, the stability of our Institutions, and the solid and enduring prosperity of the whole country, will be most effectually promoted.

But whatever importance may be attached to the adjustment by the general government, of these domestic questions of domestic policy, the unsettled and threatening aspect of our relations with foreign governments, will at this juncture, more strongly arrest the public attention.

On Wednesday, the 13th inst., the day designated by the Constitution, the Legislature of Maine assembled in the Capitol, in Augusta to commence its first Summer session.

The Senate assembled in Convention, in the Senate Chamber, at 11 o'clock A. M., 18 members appearing, and were called to order by Mr. Hastings of Washington. Mr. Allen, of York, was chosen Chairman, and the members stood, after being duly qualified by taking and subscribing the oath prescribed by the Constitution, proceeded to complete their organization by the election of Hon. STEPHEN H. CHASE, of Orono, President, and Daniel T. Pike, Secretary, and Charles T. Hanson, Assistant Secretary.

At 10 o'clock the House assembled in Convention, 145 members appearing, and were called to order by Mr. Levenseller, of Thomaston. Col. John J. Holman, of Dixfield, was appointed Chairman. After the members had been duly qualified the House completed its organization by the election of Samuel Webster, Clerk, and Ebenezer Knowlton, of Montville, Speaker.

In Senate—Thursday, May 14. Mr. Allen, of York, presented the resignation of Hon. Levi J. Hus, Senator elect from the First Senatorial District. Mr. Perry, from the Committee to which was referred the returns of votes for Senators, made a report, declaring—that three vacancies existed in the Second Senatorial District—Four in the Third—One in the Eleventh—Two in the Twelfth—and one in the Thirteenth—with the names of the Constitutional candidates, which report was accepted. The House and Senate then went into Convention for the purpose of filling the vacancies in the Senate, and the following gentlemen were chosen Senators.

First District—Benj. F. Mason.
Second District—David Dunn, Alpheus S. Holden, and Rufus Porter.

Third District—Joseph Berry, Henry Smith, Samuel W. Jackson, and Thomas Gore.

Eleventh District—Joseph S. Monroe.
Twelfth District—Rufus K. J. Porter and Joseph Barrette.

Thirteenth District—Lemuel Bursey, Jr.
After which the Convention dissolved.

In the House, some business was transacted, and the Standing Committees announced, (they will be published in the Democrat hereafter.)

In Senate—Friday, May 15. Mr. Hastings announced that the several Senators elected to fill the vacancies at the Senate Board, with the exception of Mr. Hus and Mr. Gore, were in attendance and ready to be qualified to enter upon the discharge of their duties. They were thereupon escorted to the Council Chamber where the necessary oaths were administered by the Governor and Council, and the several Senators took their seats.

Mr. Hodgdon, from the Committee to which was referred the returns of votes for Governor, reported that the whole number of votes legally and Constitutionally returned is 67,405. Hugh J. Anderson has 34,711—Freeman H. Morse 26,241—Samuel Fossenden 5,867—all others, 486; and that Hugh J. Anderson having received 2017 votes more than all other persons voted for, is Constitutionally elected Governor for the current political year.

In the House, the Report of the Joint Select Committee on gubernatorial votes was received from the Senate and accepted in concurrence. After which the House and Senate went into Convention for the purpose of qualifying the Governor elect.—This duty having been performed the Convention dissolved.

The Secretary of State then came in and laid upon the table of the Speaker the Governor's Message, which will be found in another column.

The Railroad. The Directors of the Atlantic and St. Lawrence Rail Road have issued notice to contractor for proposals for the grading, Masonry, and Bridging, of the proposed Rail Road as far as Royall's River, in North Yarmouth, about 14 miles. We understand it is contemplated to commence the work of grading on the 4th of July.

The annual Democratic State Convention of New Hampshire is to be held at Concord on the 11th of June, to nominate candidates for Governor, Member of Congress, &c. The Legislature will meet on the first Wednesday of June.

The greatest Cough and Lung Medicine in the United States is that of Dr. J. C. Watson, discovered by Dr. Watson of London, England. Masters of Packets and Coasting Vessels, from ports in the State of Maine, Cape Ann, Cape Cod, and even from Nova Scotia, call at the Principal Office in Boston daily, to obtain this medicine, either for themselves or their friends. They say it is the best, and therefore the cheapest article of the kind they have ever used.

Pamphlets respecting this Great English Remedy may be had gratis of MOSES HAMMOND, only agent in Paris.

MARRIED.

In Oxford by Rev. D. Waterhouse, Mr. Zubin Chaboum, Jr., to Miss Dorcas A. Brown, both of O. In Hartford, May 4th, by C. Thompson, Jr., Esq., Mr. Josiah A. Allen, aged 78, to Mrs. Martha Millett, aged 60, both of Hartford.

DIED.

In Norway Village, 27 ult., Miss Deliverance Tarbox aged 77 years.
In Orono, 4th inst., Miss Harriet G. Patch, daughter of M. Tarbell Patch, aged 21 years.

Notice—Freedom.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, this may certify that I have this day given to my son James M. Brown a minor his time to set and trade for himself; and that none of his earnings, nor pay may debts of his contracting after this date. JAMES BROWN.

Letter A No. 3, April 4, 1846. 3x2

Atlantic & St. Lawrence
DAILY LINE.

FRANCIS underlined proposes to establish a DAILY LINE of Stages from PARIS to PORTLAND, to commence on the first Monday of May next. His Stages leaving Paris daily at 6 o'clock A. M., will arrive at Portland in season to intersect with the Boats and Cars for Boston, and the Boats Eastern, the same day, and leaving Portland daily at 7 o'clock A. M., will arrive at Paris at 6 o'clock P. M.

By this arrangement the facilities for public travel will be greatly increased, as his line intersects with all the great thoroughfares in Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and is on the direct Route to

Atlantic & St. Lawrence Rail Road,
connecting the Metropolis of CANADA with LIVERPOOL and LONDON.

In return for the increased care and expense of this NEW ENTERPRISE, the proprietor only asks the patronage to which the magnitude of the undertaking, and the responsibility incurred, justify him in asking. G. C. WATERHOUSE.

Paris, April 14, 1845.

